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Work on your **Accent**

Clearer pronunciation for better communication

**Helen Ashton
& Sarah Shepherd**



NHÀ XUẤT BẢN TỔNG HỢP
THÀNH PHỐ HỒ CHÍ MINH

NTV

Công ty TNHH
Nhân Trí Việt



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How to use this book

Welcome to *Work on your Accent!*

This is a practical workbook to help you work on your English pronunciation. You will be guided through all of the speech sounds of British English and told how to practise further.

It's taken you your whole life so far to talk the way you do, so changing your accent isn't going to be an overnight process. Try to spend a few minutes a day working through a page or two at a time. Accent softening can be tiring, so don't try and push through the whole book in one sitting. A little every day or two is plenty!

Most important of all: you will get back what you put in. Accent work is like exercise – the more you do, the fitter you become; the less you do, the harder it feels when you finally hit the gym again.

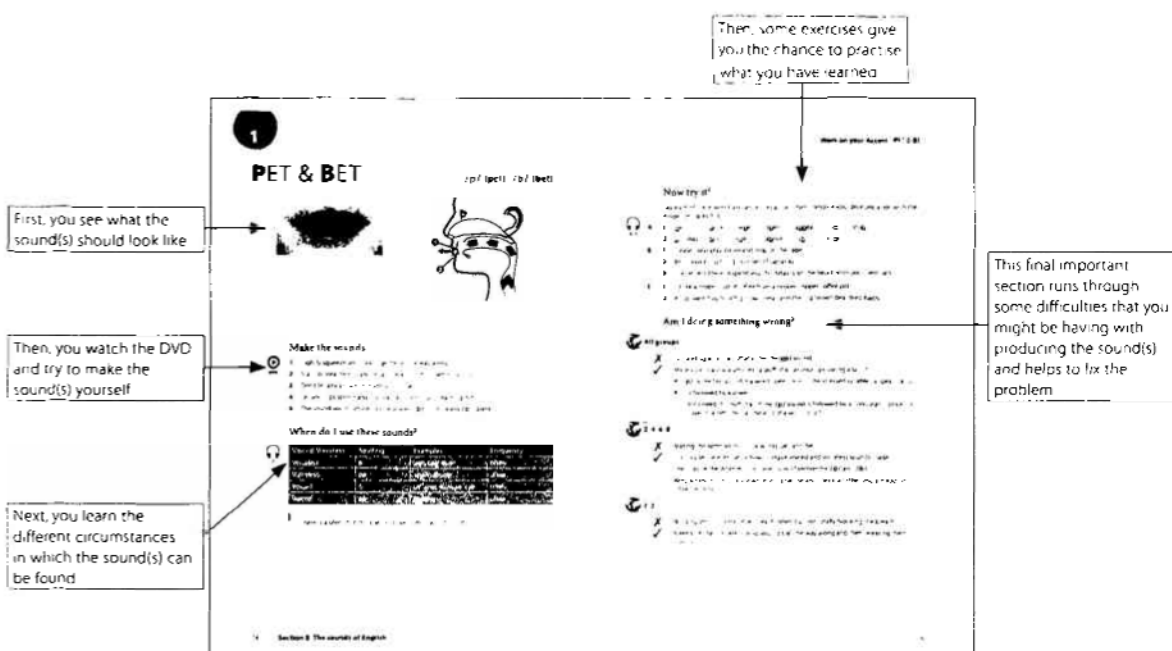
If you practise regularly, you will change your speech habit faster. If you don't, you won't. It's simple, really.

You can use *Work on your Accent*

- as a self-study course.
- with a teacher in the classroom.

The book has 52 units, each introducing a new sound or another aspect of pronunciation. Every unit contains explanations and exercises. You will learn to create each sound, and then you will practise each sound in context.

Here is a sample 'Section B' unit, to show you how each one works.



Before you start

You will be eager to jump in to the sounds – after all, that is why you bought this book! But we highly recommend that you take the time to read the few pages of introductions to the anatomy of speech, mirror practice, RP and IPA (Section A). You will get much more from your hard work if you know the most effective way to study.

More than just sounds

There is more to good pronunciation than just learning the sounds. Alongside studying each sound (Section B), this book also looks at two other extremely important areas: connecting your speech (Section C) and stress and intonation (Section D). Be sure to spend a good deal of time on these sections – without them, your learning is incomplete.

Extra exercises

In Section E, you will find lots more activities to help you perfect the more difficult sounds.

Using the DVD-ROM

This book comes with a DVD-ROM which you should use to make sure that you are creating each sound correctly. On the DVD-ROM, you will find a button to download all of the audio tracks onto your computer. Then you can transfer them to an MP3 player for easy access.

Whenever you can, you should also use the DVD-ROM to watch the video clip for each sound. The videos will help you to see what the sounds should look like when you create them. If you are working by yourself (without a teacher), it is very important that you use these video clips.



Watch

When you see this symbol, it means that there is a video that you should watch if you can.



Listen

When you see this symbol, it means that you should listen to an audio track.



Language groups

We have divided the world's languages into groups in order to help you know which errors you are most likely to make. When you see this symbol, it means we are referring to the 'language groups'. See the next page to discover which group you belong to.



Answer key

When you see this symbol, it signifies that the answers for the exercise can be found in the Answer key on page 154.

Language groups

This book is designed to be used by anybody who speaks English as a second language. We have divided many of the languages of the world into eight groups, based on the similarities native speakers of these languages usually demonstrate in the way they pronounce the sounds of English. Consequently, you may find that you are in a group where your native language is very different from others in that group. Trust us! It's not about your native language – it's about how that language affects your English.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Cantonese, Japanese, Korean, Indonesian, Malay, Mandarin, Thai, Vietnamese |
| 2 | French, Italian, Spanish, Tagalog |
| 3 | Bengali, Urdu, all languages of India |
| 4 | Czech, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Slovak, Slovene, Tajik, Ukrainian |
| 5 | Arabic, Farsi, Hebrew, Pashto |
| 6 | Afrikaans, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, German, Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish |
| 7 | Languages of sub-Saharan Africa |
| 8 | Bulgarian, Croatian, Greek, Hungarian, Moldovan, Portuguese, Romanian, Serbian, Turkish, Uzbek |



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

When you see this symbol, check to see if your group number is listed. If it is, you should pay particular attention to that point.

Of course, these groups aren't absolute – our accents are individual to us, contain huge variation and change all the time. But you can use the language groups as a quick guide to the sounds that are likely to be the most important for you to work on. We still recommend reading all of the instructions and practising everything in this book.

My first language isn't there!

If you speak a language not listed here and you're not sure which group you belong in, think about which of the languages listed are most similar to your first language. If your first language is similar, you are likely to have similar habits when speaking English.

